

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 56

June 2009

No. 6



Calendar

Sat., May 23	Swimming pool opens, 10 am; pool picnic, 5 pm; Farmer's Market, 9 am–1 pm, Penn Place, begins summer schedule	Mon., June 8	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., May 25	Memorial Day; no trash pickup; Progressive Dinner deadline (see p 5)	Tues., June 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Wed., May 27	Citizens Association Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; White Flint development project	Thurs., June 11	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., May 28	Games and light refreshments, Town Hall, 1:30–4 pm (see p 4); Land Use Task Force meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., June 18	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., June 6	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Deadline for summer calendar dates and names of graduates to Mary Moyer	Fri., June 19	Film Society, <i>Tonari no Totoru</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm
		Wed., June 24	Citizens Association Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, topic TBA
		Thurs., June 25	Games and light refreshments, Town Hall, 1:30–4 pm (see p 4)
		Sat., June 27	Progressive Dinner, Town Hall, 5 pm; reservations required (p 5)
		Sun., June 28	Grosvenor Market Day, GP Swimming Pool, 12–2 pm; Garden Tour, 1–4 pm (see p 4)

Town Council Meeting

After many lengthy and contentious meetings over the past year, the May 11 Town Council meeting was brief, sparsely attended, and devoted largely to updates and housekeeping matters. It was the first meeting for the two newly elected Councilmembers, Chris Petito and Phil Schulp. The Mayor, Councilmembers, and poll watcher Carolyn Shawaker all praised the election judges and poll workers for a very smoothly run elec-

tion. Of eligible voters, 55 percent cast ballots in the election—5 percent less than in the referendum ballot. The Mayor will meet with the Judges of Election and poll workers to consider possible changes to the Town Charter and Ordinances to make them consistent with state law regarding absentee ballots and to consider other changes to make the election process more citizen-friendly. They will also address the accuracy of county-maintained voter rolls.

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)

The Council will meet at the Town Office on May 26 for a post-election organizational workshop that will consider new areas-of-responsibility assignments for Councilmembers and improved communications between Councilmembers and with citizens.

The White Flint Sector Plan is an ongoing concern of the town. The Citizens Association has joined a coalition of citizens groups from neighborhoods that will be impacted by the proposed development. Randy Auerbach has become the town's representative to the Friends of White Flint, a successor group to the official advisory committee created by the county. At its May 26 meeting, the Council will consider how the town government can most effectively be involved in the many issues raised by the proposed White Flint development. Among those issues is the location of the new MARC station. At a recent meeting, the Planning Board ignored the recommendation of its staff (and the position of Garrett Park) and voted to recommend a new station site at Nicholson Court. Of the locations considered, this is the one closest to Garrett Park and, if adopted, would certainly bring more pressure to eliminate the Garrett Park stop. The Council is also asking the Planning Board to look at a proposed alternative road section for Rockville Pike that would include dedicated bus lanes and pedestrian and bike lanes.

The Mayor also provided an update on the proposed land swap with the County Parks Department that would result in the town acquiring the Garrett Park Community Center (home of the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School) in exchange for the lot next to Penn Place that contains part of the basketball court. The town is contending with bureaucratic mixed signals. It would prefer a perpetual easement guaranteeing the town access to Porcupine Woods, as well as a separate agreement concerning the continued use of the lot at Penn Place for town gatherings. The county is backing away from this and offering a contractual agreement with less protection. The Council and Nursery School parents continue to work on this, so watch for future developments.

The Council voted to fill vacancies on two official town committees. Fredrika Moser and Keith Mayhew were reappointed to 5-year terms on the Arboretum Committee. An additional vacancy is anticipated and will be advertised. Nancy Schwartz was reappointed to a 3-year term on the Historic Preservation Committee.

Councilmember Irons announced that the town has been awarded a grant from the county to create an interactive history map for the town Web site. Also funded by a county grant, the town's recently published walking tour brochure will serve as the basis for a short program being filmed for Montgomery County's Public Access Cable channel. The date of the showing will be announced.

The next meeting of the Land Use Task Force will be on May 28 at the Town Hall.

Councilmember Wegner reported on the repairs to the recurring pot holes on Strathmore Avenue between Clermont and Montrose Avenues. The Mayor has asked the State Highway Department for a permanent repair, but the response seems to be one more temporary patch. The town will try to determine if a permanent repair is planned. In the same vein, Waverly Avenue between Montrose and Rokeby will be dug up by WSSC to replace pipes to the houses on that block. This will affect traffic going to and from Penn Place. The road will then have a temporary patch for six months to allow the disturbed soil to settle before a permanent patch can be made.

The Council approved minutes for its April regular monthly meeting. The Mayor announced that minutes of closed meetings have also been approved. The Council will consider whether the minutes from some of those meetings, which dealt with the litigation of the past year, should be made public.

After voting on some end-of-fiscal-year budget adjustments to move funds from areas of the operating budget that had extra funds to those that need additional funds, the Council meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Nancy Schwartz

Did You Know...?

The Kensington Arts Theatre, located in the Kensington Town Center/Armory, 3710 Mitchell Street, has extended to Garrett Parkers a discounted ticket price of \$13 for adult tickets (the same as for Kensington residents), reduced from \$20. The group's autumn production will be *The Rocky Horror Show*, with *Rent* on the upcoming 2010 calendar. Charlie and Carol Snyder have taken the lead on organizing carpools for seniors who want to attend performances but may no longer drive at night. Friday and Saturday show times are at 8 pm, Sundays at 7 pm. For more information, visit the group's Web site, katonline.org, or call Elizabeth in the Town Office at 301-933-7488.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
President: Chris Strong
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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$15 (first class) or \$13 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Town Elections. Many thanks for the fine work of the Judges of Election: Chief Judge Judy Heyman, Judges Brenda Artim and Margaret Goldsborough, and Alternate Judge Cliff Tarpy. Thanks also to poll workers Jim Agenbroad, Dorothy Chrisler, Bob Flanders, Farhad Heidarian, Natalie Grande, Ann Morgan, and Peggy Pratt. Congratulations to the winners, Jack Mandel, Chris Petito, and Phil Schulp, with thanks and appreciation to Chuck Berry and Solange Hansen for their service to the town. Best wishes to our one reelected and two new Councilmembers!

Large Item Collection. There will be a large item collection Saturday, July 11. Please don't put items out the weekend before—we want the town to look sharp for the Fourth of July!

Garrett Park Building Permits. I would like to remind everyone to check with the Town Office to find out if your building project needs a Garrett Park permit. A town permit is required to demolish any building larger than 400 square feet. It is also required whenever a new structure is to be built, including a new house, shed, garage, or similar structure, or when the size of a house is proposed to be increased with an addition, a deck, a porch, or the like. The town is concerned only with the relationship of the proposed construction to the size of the lot and its setback from the lot's boundary. The town also requires a permit for driveway or parking pad construction or repair. You should apply for a town building permit before applying for a county permit.

Montgomery County Building Permits. Montgomery County requires building permits for any structure above ground level (not patios or driveways), including sheds, garages, decks, fences, etc. A county permit is also required for any alteration to a structure (other than ordinary repair or maintenance) and for demolition. The county is concerned with zoning, health and safety, plumbing, structural, electrical, and the like. For more information, contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6300. As always, the Town Office will assist you in any way possible.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

Art at Penn Place

Estelle Zorman will be the next artist to exhibit at the Penn Place Gallery. She was born in Slovenia, then part of Yugoslavia. Art has always been a part of Estelle's life: she started drawing at the age of two or three. When her family left Slovenia after World War II, she found comfort in drawing on the wooden bed boards in the barracks of an internment camp in Spittal, Austria. She came to America in 1950 with her family. After raising three children, she attended Montgomery College where she met other artists, and studied art history, painting, and print making.

Estelle writes: "At present, watercolor is my medium of choice because it is so fresh and spontaneous. I'm very drawn to nature and am constantly searching for the essence of things. I love shapes, and of course, color ... Before I begin any painting, whether it's a simple flower or a more esoteric subject like an angel, I light a candle, play some music, and ask for a clear channel to paint a painting that will hold light energies of joy, love, and peace."

Estelle Zorman's paintings will be on display from June 7 to July 11.

In other local art news, Robert LeMar won two prizes at the Annual Art Show of the Chevy Chase Women's Club, as well as first place in oil painting at the spring Rockville Art League juried members show. The work of members of the Rockville Art League is currently on display at the Glenview Mansion.

Berton Zbar

Graduates Wanted

Is someone in your family graduating from high school or above? We would like to publish in the next issue the names of those in town who have made it through their school years. Give me a call by June 5 with names, places graduated from, and plans for the future.

Mary Moyer

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www.garrettpark-md.gov


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Citizens Association News

On May 27 at 8 pm in the Town Hall, the Citizens Association will host a meeting to discuss our citizens' positions on various aspects of the White Flint development project.

Upcoming Events: Pooch Parade—June 6. The annual Pooch Parade and Contest will be held on June 6 at the basketball courts by Penn Place. Open to dog owners of all ages, the event is free, but a Garrett Park Girl Scout troop will be collecting donations for the Humane Society. Last year's event saw several dozen beautiful pooches. Show yours off! Ribbons will be awarded for "biggest," "smallest," "best tail," "best costume," and others. Dogs can be shown dressed up or in the buff. Registration starts at 9:30 am. Judging starts at 10 am followed by a parade and trick contest.

July 4 Parade. The Citizens Association would like to hear your best ideas for the theme for this year's July 4 parade. Please e-mail your ideas to Kathryn Mitchell or put your suggestions in the box in the post office. Also, we need volunteers to help at the parade and afterward. Please e-mail Leslie Bethke-Pope if you are available.

Garrett Park Listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong.

Games and Spring Punch!

Bring your favorite game (and friend or neighbor) to two Thursday afternoons of games and light refreshments at the Town Hall, from 1:30 to 4 pm on May 28 and June 25. Seniors and other residents at home during the day (and children after school) are encouraged to come join in the fun. A good time was had by all on April 30, with Lora Koomanoff leading us (and winning) a round of Rumikub while others played a variety of different games nearby.

Bring Photos, Cards, and Notes!

On June 4, photographer Vickie Baily will be mounting a show of photographs she has taken of Anne Atlee's garden—many of them shot from Vickie's own side of the fence. Vickie is taking down her solo show "Early Retrospective" in order to celebrate her neighbor, Anne Atlee, on her 85th birthday. As Vickie explained last month, she learned more about gardening in two years living next door to Anne than in all her previous life: "This exhibit is my way of saying thank you." Vickie is joined by Anne's daughter, Diane Beverly, and friend, Barbara Jackson, in wishing Anne a happy birthday. They are inviting town residents to bring Anne notes, cards, or photographs at a reception on June 6 at 11 am. Proceeds from any photographs sold at this show, "My Neighbor's Garden," will be donated to the Humane Society.

Garden Tour June 28

A tour of Garrett Park gardens is being planned to raise money for an expanded stage in the new elementary school building. For information, contact Kay Hager.

Green Again

Thank you to Cal and Betty Baldwin for this month's greening in celebration of the Obamas' arrival in Washington. Both have been giving their support to this publication over the years by being part of our monthly folding crew. Thanks a bunch for both.

We have received enough "green" money to keep us going for the rest of this year and into February 2010. Anyone else want to join the "greening" of this little publication? \$39 will get you the pleasure of knowing that you are helping with the printing costs. Mail a check made out to the GP Citizens Association to Box 98, and you will earn my eternal gratitude!

Anyone have nominations for a Grand Marshall of our July 4 parade? Send them to Box 456 (Citizens Association) or put your suggestions in the box at the PO.

Mary Moyer

- ◆ 25 years broad real estate experience
- ◆ Over 20 years community service and knowledge of Montgomery County

Who's on your side of the table?™



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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- On April 20, David Fredericks (81) passed away quietly in his current home in Riderwood Village. He and his wife Helen lived on Kenilworth Avenue until retiring a few years ago to Riderwood. He had worked for years with Prudential. His funeral was held on April 27 at Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, and burial was at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Besides Helen, he is survived by Suzi Gifford and her family here in Garrett Park, and Jennifer Fields of Marshfield, Massachusetts. Contributions may be made in his honor to The Humane Society of the United States, Dept. HHHONL, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.
- Editor Barbara Collier's husband, Jonathan Paul, has done it again. Formerly a frequent contributor to the *Washington Post's* Style Invitational, he came out of retirement to win the 15th annual "Triple Crown" contest April 25. In this contest, a list of 100 horses eligible for the Triple Crown is provided, and readers are asked to "breed" any two and name the offspring. Jonathan won by pairing "Sir Phenomenal" and "Empire State" to produce "Knight Who Says NY." He also received an Honorable Mention for breeding "Logic" and "Affirmatif" to get "Yes We Kant."
- Linda Paine is pleased to announce that on May 9, son Taunton graduated *cum laude* from American University with a degree in history.
- Garrett Park Elementary is gearing up to have a reunion of anyone who graduated from the school before 1998. This is being held to celebrate the life of the current building before its demolition in June 2010. If you would like to be part of the planning of the event, which will be held in November, give Mary Moyer a

call. Parents of ex-students will be contacted for updated addresses.

- A hearty welcome home to Margaret Soltan, who is back from three months in Key West, where she spent part of her sabbatical year. She returns to GW's English Department and to regular reporting on Town Council meetings for the *Bugle*, starting in September.
- The PO would like to remind you that the rate for sending a first class letter went up to 44¢. Also in the rate rise is the postcard stamp, up to 28¢. Save those forever stamps for when the rate hits 50¢!
- The town elections are over for this year. The turnout was pretty good. Out of 841 residents eligible, only 382 did not vote.

Jobs List

The new, updated jobs list is available in the print version of the *Bugle*.



Progressive Dinner Deadline Fast Approaching!

All adult residents are invited to participate in the Garrett Park Women's Club annual Progressive

Dinner on Saturday, June 27. But if you want to, you need to return this form pronto!

I/we would like to participate in the 2008 Progressive Dinner on Saturday, June 27.

Name(s): _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Contact e-mail: _____

Choose your top three preferences from these eight options, indicating first, second, and third choices:

<input type="checkbox"/> Provide appetizer at Town Hall (for 16 to 20)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide salad (for 12 to 16)
<input type="checkbox"/> Host salad at my home (for 10 to 16)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide vegetarian main course (for 10 to 12)
<input type="checkbox"/> Host main course at my house (for 8 to 14)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide meat main course (for 10 to 12)
<input type="checkbox"/> Host vegetarian main (for 10 to 12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide dessert, Town Hall (for 16 to 20)
Special needs? _____	

Cost is \$10 per person. Please return form to Garrett Park Progressive Dinner, Box 494, Garrett Park, MD 20896. Make checks payable to Garrett Park Women's Club.

Questions? Contact Kay Austin or Jean Horan.
E-mail subject line: GPWC Progressive Dinner

Deadline for registration:
Monday, May 25, please!

Letter from the Mayor

Today—as I did one year ago in my first letter as mayor—I want to again note how fortunate Garrett Park is to have dedicated residents who generously volunteer their time and talents. We saw one of the best examples in the recent election for Town Council. Congratulations to new Councilmembers Chris Petito and Phil Schulp, as well as re-elected Councilmember Jack Mandel, on their successful campaigns. But every bit as much, the town owes a debt of gratitude to Marian Green and Pam Morgan for their willingness to run for office. A Council election—especially a contested election—is the best way for our voices to be heard and our choices registered with the town government. The dialog that occurs in the course of campaigning helps sharpen awareness of issues throughout town and aids candidates to better understand residents' views. The town is richer for the many contributions, both on and off the Council, that *all* of these candidates make to Garrett Park.

The new Council will tackle a full list of topics when it meets to determine its operating procedures and substantive assignments. A perennial subject is communications—how do we best publicize issues in town, and what are the ways that we can facilitate residents' responsive comment? In remarks at their swearing-in, each of the three elected Councilmembers expressed the hope that Garrett Park residents will convey their thoughts, ideas, and concerns about town issues in a variety of ways. We all hope that more residents will attend regular Council meetings (second Monday of each month), but we also recognize that weekday nighttime meetings are not always convenient. With added technology and a renewed commitment to improve communications, we hope to make it easier for all town residents to participate in our local government. Give us your ideas!

I am pleased to announce the reappointment, with the advice and consent of the Council, of Keith Mayhew and Fredrika Moser to the Arboretum Committee, and Nancy Schwartz to the Historic Preservation Committee. All these dedicated volunteers have contributed a great deal to the town. Nancy in particular is deserving of our special thanks for obtaining another Montgomery County Historic Preservation matching grant. Building on the Committee's work with its prior grant to publish the walking tour brochure, the Committee will now establish an interactive map of historic Garrett Park homes on the town Web site. Look for it early next year.

The town has a vacancy on the Arboretum Committee; if you are interested, please contact the Town Office. As with all volunteer groups in town, the chief requirements of membership are an enthusiasm to serve and willingness to put time toward the Committee's work. For the Arboretum Committee, we are particularly looking for candidates with special interest, knowledge, or

experience in such fields as horticulture, botany or related natural sciences, landscape design, ecology, conservation, or complementary disciplines. We interpret "special interest" broadly!

A few weeks ago, our neighbors in Randolph Hills dedicated the stream restoration in Waverly-Schuylkill Park, the park immediately across the railroad tracks from Penn Place. The stream restoration consists of a series of pools and cascades intended to foster wildlife and halt the severe erosion that had characterized the stream. The Randolph Hills Civic Association worked hard to bring about the transformation of the park; the stream restoration was designed and built by the Montgomery County Parks Department. It's a beautiful area now, very conducive to walking, and particularly attractive and friendly to children. I urge you to visit.

For the two stream branches that were restored in Waverly-Schuylkill, most of the watershed is located in Garrett Park; the streams flow through culverts under the railroad embankment. So I would like the town to consider the possibility of analogous projects on the Garrett Park side. Most of the water from Garrett Park is storm runoff; it flows to Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately to Chesapeake Bay. We are all increasingly aware of our responsibility to foster the health of the Bay by more prudent handling of storm water runoff. This will be a long-term project, but one that will pay many "downstream" dividends.

Finally, Henri and I invite all residents to a Friday afternoon picnic in our backyard to express our appreciation to our dedicated town staff. Look for announcements of the exact date in June. Meanwhile, see you at the pool!

Chris Keller

Remember your loved ones with a fine oil or pastel portrait by Robert LeMar.

For an example of Robert's work, please see a photo of his portrait of the President on the GP bulletin board.

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